

Middleborough Antiquarian

Devoted to the preservation of local history by
MIDDLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.

Established 1922

\$3.50

VOLUME XXX

FALL 1992

NUMBER 1



Lyman Butler
1906-1992

Take Good Care of Yourself Have an Ocean Spray!



The farmer's cooperative that brings you
a wide range of natural fruit juices, drinks and sauces

Ocean Spray Cranberries, Inc., Lakeville-Middleboro, MA 02349
An Equal Opportunity Employer

A message from the editor

by Jane Lopes

"Chronicler of small-town life" was the phrase his longtime friend and colleague Clint Clark used to describe Lyman Butler, who passed away in January at the age of 86.

In addition to writing his "Down Memory Lane" column for the Middleboro Gazette for nearly three decades, Lyman was a frequent contributor to the Antiquarian. His writing focused on Middleboro, the town he recalled from his childhood and learned about from his lifelong passion for local history.

He wrote about sledding in the winter and spending leisurely summer afternoons in a rural New England town. He wrote about traveling by horse and buggy, attending a one-room school and watching his mother can preserves. His memories were strong, and he was able to articulate them in such a way that younger generations could appreciate and enjoy. This was a constant source of enjoyment to him, knowing that he was offering a local history lesson to young people, and perhaps instilling in them some of the values small-town life had instilled in him.

In his column and in his Antiquarian articles, he also imparted the information gleaned from research, from conversations and correspondence, and from his work - not the work

for which he was paid a salary, but the work he did for the love of it. A member of the Middleborough Historical Association for many years, and a past president, Lyman was active in the association and was also a member of the Steamship Historical Society and other historical and environmental groups. His love for the Pratt Farm, now a town-owned environmental education center, encompassed both his respect for local history and his desire to preserve the town's historical and environmental resources.

Lyman was well known as a local authority on historical landmarks ranging from 18th-century mill sites to downtown buildings, and his was one of the first names mentioned by anyone asked for information about the town's history. In his tribute to Lyman, Clint Clark put it best. "Whenever there was a question about a local event, or a vanished landmark, it was always, 'Ask Lyman, he'll know.'"

Following is a sampling of Lyman's Antiquarian articles.



Ben Chapman's Store and Diner

by Lyman Butler

Many remember when Ben Chapman ran the motor and bicycle shop on South Main Street, but I wonder how many remember when he had the variety store on Everett Street between his house and the railroad to Plymouth.

You could buy groceries, soda, ice cream and all kinds of candy as well as small toys and balloons, which the children of that day enjoyed as much as the really expensive toys of today. As Ben ran the bike shop daytimes, his wife took care of the store at home.

She was a very kind and respected lady and all of us kids enjoyed going over for a bottle of pop or some ice cream. At this time Everett Street was old Route 28 and Ben's store did very well. A favorite pastime for us young ones was to get a bottle of pop and set on the banks of the railroad bridge and watch for the trains to Plymouth.

A short time later Ben moved a diner onto a spot where Robert Clark's dwelling stood before it was moved up to the junction of North and Everett Streets when the new Route 44 took the land. This was a very popular place with the teenagers as well as the many motorists that used Route 28 to the Cape.

(Continued on Page 11)

MIDDLEBOROUGH ANTIQUARIAN

Middleboro, Mass.

VOLUME XXX FALL 1992 NUMBER 1

Jane C. Lopes Editor

OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

President Robert M. Beals

Vice President Thomas Weston

Secretary Jean Michael

Treasurer Edward M. Pratt

Directors Thomas A. Maddigan

George Barden Eileen L. Atkins

Museum Director Marsha Manchester

Curator Marsha Manchester

Historical Association Annual Membership

Single	\$10.00	Sustaining	\$ 50.00
--------	---------	------------	----------

Family	15.00	Benefactor	100.00
--------	-------	------------	--------

Participating	20.00	Life	200.00
---------------	-------	------	--------

Membership includes each issue of Middleborough Antiquarian. Subscriptions \$10.00 per year. Single copies \$3.50.

Dues and subscriptions - mail to Jean Michael,
P.O. Box 304, Middleboro

Colonial Middleboro - Part I

by Warren and Marion Whipple

(First in a series of three articles on Middleboro during the colonial period.)

The Beginning of a New Community (1676 - c.1686)

Colonial history? Traditionally we concentrate on the Pilgrims coming to Plymouth and then jump to the American Revolution. What happened in between? Specifically, what happened in Middleboro to turn an Indian village into a thriving industrial community of Englishmen? Whatever happened, it all occurred in exactly one hundred years (1676 - 1776).

Nemasket was the most densely populated area of the Wampanoag Indian Federation. The three villages at Muttuck, Assawompsett, and Titicut had escaped the ravages of the plagues of 1615 and 1617, so this was the center of Indian power, and from Muttuck their trails branched out in all directions. Because of the concentration of Indians here, no attempt had been made by the people of Plymouth Colony to move into this area until all the surrounding lands had been settled. The General Court (legislature) of Plymouth Colony ruled that all purchases here must be made by appointed agents of the Court, and all settlers must, by law, recognize the Indians' right to share the land. Nevertheless, settlers were eager to buy lots and to establish homes, some within sight of the Indian towns. The first Purchase, called the Twenty-six Men's Purchase, was made in 1661. Eight years later there were perhaps as many as forty families living here, this guess being based on the fact that in 1669 the General Court incorporated Middleberry as a separate town. For the next twenty years either name, Middleberry (also spelled Middlebery or Middlebury) or Middleborough, was used on legal documents. After 1700 the latter name was used exclusively. It is strange how our name changed gradually without any official action being taken. Middleberry was the second largest town in area in Plymouth Colony. It included our present-day Middleboro, Lakeville, a corner of Halifax, and a bit of Rochester.

When King Philip's War broke out in 1675, the settlers evacuated to Plymouth to save their lives, but every home was destroyed. All records were burned. Nothing remained of the town, and yet it was assessed £100 as its share of the cost of the war. News of this devastation reached Europe, of course, and the old records that Francis Coombs and Isaac Howland were appointed to "distribute charities from Ireland to such as were impoverished during King Philip's War."

In June of 1677, a meeting of sixty-eight landowners was held in Plymouth to decide what to do with their burned-out property. King Philip was dead, Anawan and Tuspaquin had been executed, the Indian alliance had collapsed. However, even though the war was over, there were still many Indians living in the area. Some estimates place the ratio as high as ten to one in favor of the Indians. Furthermore, the settlers would be widely scattered in a farming community. They would have

to be constantly on their guard against a revengeful individual operating as a sniper, as an arsonist, or as a thief. In the next town of Carver as late as 1698 a bounty would be paid for Indian scalps, but the General Court stipulated that in Middleberry the Indians must be left in peace on their reservations and allowed to share the land and its hunting and fishing rights. Reservations had been given to them at Betty's Neck on Lake Assawompsett and at Titicut (North Middleboro) as a gift to the Praying Indians for remaining neutral in the war. Gradually, most of the inhabitants of the Muttuck village sold their land and moved to Titicut. Even so, there would still be many natives nearby, and the new settlers would have to be constantly on guard.

If the settlers returned to Middleberry, they would have to cut and saw their own lumber and construct their own cabins. They would need money to stock their farm with sheep and cows. They would have no church, no school, and no doctor nearer than Plymouth, and the road was a rough trail of twelve to sixteen miles traversed on foot or horseback. Despite these discouraging conditions the landowners voted to sign the following statement. "...we said inhabitants at Plimouth on Wednesday the twenty seventh of June (1677) aforesaid do unanimously agree by permission of God and by his gracious assistance to make a beginning again in order unto the repossession of our lands and reedification of our demolished buildings and habitations which some of us were before the late sad warr in actuall improvement and possession of, and to make such orders and conclusions as may hopefully have a tendency unto the laying a foundation of a towne and opius society in the place."¹

Not every family returned. Some sold their rights. Those who did rebuild were scattered throughout the 100 square miles of town. We know that John Tomson's house was on Thompson Street in Halifax, while David Thomas lived in the Thomastown section along the Weweantic River. Isaac Howland lived in the center near our Town Hall. The Eddy Family gave their name to Eddyville, George Vaughan's land was beside Lake Assawompsett, and Ephraim Tinkham built across the Nemasket River from the Muttuck Indians. Neighbors were usually far apart.

We have to assume that these first houses were cabins built of hewn logs with windows of oiled paper. The men had to do the work themselves, with hand tools. The furniture was homemade, too. At the same time they had to hunt for food, plant gardens and care for their sheep and cows if they had any. The women had to spin and weave with flax and wool, make all the clothes, towels, and bedding. They dipped candles, made soap, pre-

served food, and did the cooking. Obviously the meals were necessarily simple. Breakfast and supper usually consisted of a porridge of boiled cornmeal served with milk or molasses. Dinner was a hearty repast of meat or fish with vegetables of beans, squash, pumpkin, or beets from their garden. Often this meal was cooked as a stew in the pot hanging in the fireplace. They drank ale, beer, or cider. Like all Englishmen at that time, they were afraid of water that had been known to cause sickness. Illnesses were a constant dread. With little knowledge of diseases and their causes, and with no concern for sanitation, epidemics were common. Yellow fever and smallpox were their worst enemies, more feared than human enemies who were visible, at least.

Life was hard, but their parents had also found it hard in Europe, and they themselves were second-generation Pilgrims who had never known any other life.

We think of Middleberry as a frontier village built in the woods, free of all legal restraints, where local matters were settled by the people themselves. However, it was not that isolated. First, Middleberry was subject to the General Court and Governor of Plymouth Colony to whom they must pay taxes, fulfill military duties, comply with the fencing rules to control sheep and pigs, observe the Sabbath, and obey the hunting and fishing regulations. Because deer were an important source of food, they were protected by hunting restrictions that prevented their extermination. Wolves, bobcats, blackbirds, and crows were considered a threat to flocks and gardens, so a bounty was paid for killing them.

Unfortunately there would always be a need for enforcement and punishment. John Tomson and Isaac Howland were appointed to set up the stocks and whipping post, and make a pound for holding stray animals. The three selectmen settled local disputes and "warned" potential misfits out of town. The office of constable was very important. Serious problems were handled in Plymouth.

Middleberry had two representatives in the General Court of Plymouth Colony but in order to serve or even to vote a man must own property worth at least 20 and must take an oath of fidelity to the Pilgrim Church and government. According to the Plymouth records only six men had qualified as Freemen at first (1670): Francis Combe, Jonathan Dunham, Samuel Eaton, John Morton, William Nelson, Sr., and Henry Wood. However, every man must obey the laws and pay his taxes.

For the first few years, the men concentrated on rebuilding their own homes. A decade later, they began in earnest to organize the town. In 1693 the General Court spelled out the orders for all towns. They must support a minister and a school. Every March there must be a Town Meeting to elect the selectmen, a clerk, constables, a surveyor of highways, a surveyor of fences, assessors, a tithing man to control disorderly persons in church and also to check the taverns regularly for excessive drinking and loitering, a sealer of leather to supervise tanning, and a clerk of the market to check weekly for the weight of bread being sold. The town must care for its poor, and allow no loafers to remain. The law required that towns regularly "walk their bounds," and Middleberry was having problems with its neighbors, especially Bridgewater. John Tomson, Isaac

Howland, and John Soul were appointed (1686) to handle this matter.

Town Meetings were usually held in Isaac Howland's house. Attendance was often difficult for farmers who lived many miles away, but unity was important so attendance was compulsory. The fine for skipping one meeting was two shillings 6 pence.

Plymouth Colony belonged to the British Empire, and its people must obey King and Parliament. The Middleberry settlers might live thousands of miles away from London, but they were under England's authority at all times. The Empire laws dealt primarily with manufacturing, trade regulations, and with defense against the French and Spanish, but of course they could and did deal with all manner of subjects. Under the rule of Oliver Cromwell, Puritan Boston had become almost independent, issuing its own money, ignoring the Trade Laws, and omitting the King's name from legal documents. So, when Charles II was restored to the throne after Cromwell's death, he was determined to re-establish royal authority in America. He sent his special commissioners to assess the situation, and they were publicly insulted. King James II took action! The colonial charters were revoked, and all New England and New York were combined into one large Dominion of New England (1685) under a royal governor. Plymouth Colony with its elected government was wiped out. Our people must pay allegiance to the royal Governor Andros who used Boston as his capital. If it had been inconvenient to travel to Plymouth, now they must go to Boston to pay taxes, record deeds, hold trials. Only two years before, Obadiah Eddy had been commissioned to lay out a road "toward Boston." Suddenly the road was urgently needed. In Town Meeting it was voted not to send a representative to the General Court of Massachusetts because the town was too "few in numbers" and unable to bear the expense.

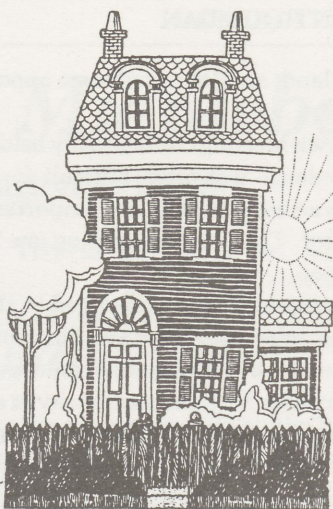
When James II died, William and Mary came to the throne. They reissued Colonial charters (1691), but Plymouth Colony was united forever to Massachusetts Bay Colony. Under this new charter, each town got two representatives to the General Court in Boston, and Middleberry chose John Tomson and Isaac Howland to go — two familiar names!

And so, from the very beginning, Middleberry's residents were surrounded by laws, regulations, and meetings on numerous political issues. They were never allowed to forget that they belonged to the King and the British Empire.

1. Weston, History of the Town of Middleboro, Massachusetts. p. 551.



News
from
home



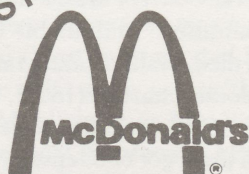
For the past 139 years, we've been giving you the news you need in Middleboro, Lakeville, Freetown and surrounding communities. Accurate, penetrating government news, sharp school sports coverage, and features about the people who make our towns special places to live and work... you'll find all of this and more each and every Thursday morning in your hometown newspaper.

The Middleboro Gazette

Serving Middleboro, Lakeville and Freetown
148 West Grove St., PO Box 551, Middleboro, MA 02346

947-1760

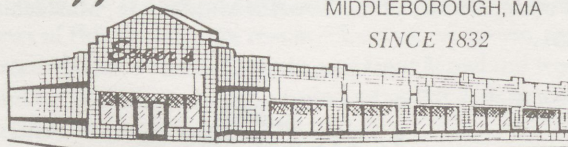
IT'S A
GOOD TIME
FOR THE
GREAT TASTE™



Buses Welcome
4 Clark Street
Middleboro Center Exit 4
Off Rt. 495
Middleboro, MA
947-5600

Egger's FURNITURE COMPANY
MIDDLEBOROUGH, MA

SINCE 1832



"New England's Oldest Furniture Store"

177 CENTER ST.
DOWNTOWN MIDDLEBORO

947-0680

A ANDERSON
CUSHING

Insurance Agency, Inc.

148 West Grove Street, Middleboro, MA 02346 947-3036/947-1385

1 Chace Road, Crossroads Common, E. Freetown, MA 02717 763-3739

WE'RE YOUR MORE-THAN-ONE-COMPANY AGENT.



ED AMARAL
General Manager

R RODMAN

LINCOLN-MERCURY

ROUTE FORTY-FOUR RAYNHAM, MASS. 02780
(508) 880-0000 FAX (508) 824-1653

Now Available!

Middleborough, Massachusetts,
Vital Records, Volume II

Order from:

Mass. Society of Mayflower Descendants
101 Newbury Street
Boston, MA 02116

\$35.00 Postpaid

Middleborough's Tory Story: Simeon Doggett, 1738-1823

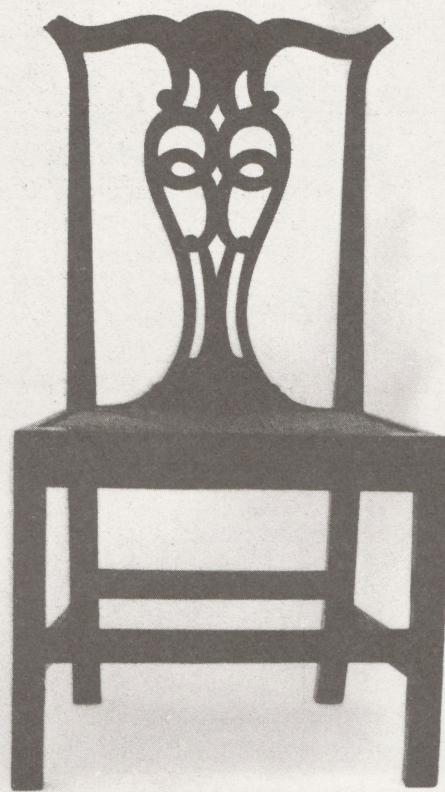
by Margaret K. Hofer

Simeon Doggett's account book, a pocket-sized, tattered vellum notebook in the library of the Connecticut Historical Society, provides a window into the life of an eighteenth-century yeoman and his place within the Middleborough community. The account book and other family papers document Doggett's business as a joiner and housewright, provide insights into the economic and social structure of Revolutionary Middleborough, and offer a harrowing chronicle of one man's political persecution and the ultimate recovery of his reputation.

As a joiner, Doggett crafted a wide variety of wooden objects ranging from chairs, bedsteads, and chests of drawers to feeding troughs, spinning wheels and coffins. His work as a housewright involved erecting, finishing and painting dwellings and other wooden structures, from barns to meeting houses. As was typical for eighteenth-century rural artisans, Doggett also combined his trade with farming. While aspects of Doggett's professional life correspond with what other scholars have learned about the rural craftsman, his religious, political and personal life were markedly different from the typical yeoman. First of all, Doggett was an Anglican in a town composed almost entirely of Congregationalists. In addition, he espoused Tory views and was persecuted by local patriots. Finally, he became dissatisfied with the status quo towards the end of his life and aspired to raise his family above yeoman status.

Doggett's family arrived in Middleborough in 1742, when he was four years old. His family, originally from Marshfield, was probably drawn to Middleborough by cheaper and more plentiful lands. Doggett's father, faced with the task of settling four sons on sufficient land for farming, apparently opted to indenture his youngest son Simeon to a skilled artisan, thereby lessening the need to give him a large allotment of land. Doggett's apprenticeship, to an unknown artisan, probably began in 1752, at the standard age of fourteen; by the time he reached the age of twenty-one, he had completed his training and was ready to work as a journeyman. Doggett must have left his apprenticeship with the confidence that he was ready to earn a living, for his marriage intention was published just five months after he reached his majority and was released from his apprenticeship. In 1760, Doggett married Abigail Pratt, the daughter of David Pratt of Chowan County, North Carolina.

Doggett's account book spans a thirty-year period, from the time he began his business at the age of twenty-four to the time he turned it over to his eldest son in 1792. Close analysis of his accounts reveals a wealth of information about Doggett's professional life, including the types of objects he made and what he charged, the clients he served, the kinds of goods and ser-



CRAFTSMANSHIP shows in the elaborate design of this Doggett chair, probably built around 1798.

vices which were offered in payment, the seasonal rhythms of his business, and his training of apprentices. Doggett was rarely without additional hands to assist in building houses, making furniture, and of course farming his land. In addition to his own three sons, Thomas, Elkanah, and Simeon, Doggett trained and provided a home for at least seven apprentices during the period he kept his account book. Five of Doggett's apprentices were fatherless at the time they were apprenticed, so Doggett served the role of surrogate father as well as that of skilled master. Doggett must have had a wide reputation as a master, for his apprentices came not only from Middleborough, but also from more distant towns such as Plympton and Plymouth.

The scrawled names and numbers in Doggett's account book are more meaningful when considered alongside surviving

(Continued on Page 8)



THE MIDDLEBORO HOME of Dr. Peter Oliver, begun in 1767, was one of several local houses that Simeon Doggett helped build that are still standing. Several other examples of his handiwork can be seen on Page 13 of this issue.

Silas Wood House

Doggett furniture and houses. The chair in figure 1 is still owned by a direct descendant of the Doggett and Weston families. It was probably made by Simeon Doggett as a wedding gift for his daughter Abigail, who married Thomas Weston in 1798. The chair represents Doggett's most elaborate joinery work; for the most part, his clients preferred his more simple and less expensive slat-back and bannister-back chairs. The design of this chair's back-splat is based on similar chairs which were popular in Newport and Providence, Rhode Island several decade earlier.

If the chair represents Doggett's most elaborate joinery work, the Dr. Peter Oliver house (figure 2) is surely Doggett's most sophisticated house-building project. As is substantiated by both Peter Oliver's diary and Doggett's account book, the house was begun in 1767 by Daniel Oliver, Peter's older brother. Daniel died in 1768 during a voyage to the Canary Islands, and Peter Oliver took over the house for himself, hiring many worker to complete the unfinished dwelling. While Doggett

was involved in every stage of the building, from erecting the structure in 1767 to finishing the interior in 1770, he was only one of many skilled artisans working on the project. As Doggett was only twenty-nine years old and an inexperienced housewright when he began building the house, he was certainly not the master builder. Instead, he was probably directed by experienced builders whom the Olivers may have brought from Boston. Evidence of Doggett's handiwork is still there today: the twenty-seven window frames and 372 squares of sashes which Doggett recorded in his account book in 1767 are largely intact.

In addition to the Oliver House, one other example of Doggett's housewright activity stills stands in Middleborough. The Silas Wood House on South Main Street was built by Doggett in 1771 for his neighbor and fellow Tory. Unlike the Oliver House, which was a formal Georgian mansion, this cape was more typical of the types of dwellings Doggett built for his

(Continued on Page 13)

The Plantagenet Ancestry of the Middleboro Aldens

by George Barden

The surname "Alden," once so common in Middleboro, has all but disappeared in this locality in the latter half of the twentieth century, although there are still many who can claim descent from the Elder John who arrived in Plymouth aboard the "Mayflower" in the year 1620. John Alden, grandson of the Elder John and son of Joseph Alden of Bridgewater, was the first Alden to make Middleboro his place of residence, settling in North Middleboro in the year 1700, and his descendants became more and more numerous throughout Middleboro during the next two centuries. One who visits the Purchase Cemetery (the "Alden Cemetery") on Plymouth Street in North Middleboro will notice the grave markers of John, his wife Hanna (White) and literally dozens of their Alden progeny.

There has been much speculation concerning the English origin of the surname Alden but with very little to show for it. The consensus is that the name derives from a Danish family (or Viking raider) who settled in England sometime in the ninth, tenth or eleventh century. There is an Aldene listed in the Domesday Book of 1066 and one Alexander Aldeyn is registered in the "Rotuli Hundredorum" of Oxford in 1279; of John Alden's parentage nothing is known.

The pedigree of John's wife, Priscilla Mullins, is another matter. Her ancestors are well documented, each successive grandparent occupying a high rank on the social ladder. As we scan the record from 1620 backward in time to her earliest known ancestor, Rollo the Northman, we note prosperous tradesmen, members of the nobility and tradesmen, members of the nobility and finally seven rulers of England including William the Conqueror, and before him the five generations of Dukes of Normandy until we arrive at Rollo, the Viking who conquered that part of France known as Normandy (Norman = North-Man) and whose exact place of origin is a mystery (Denmark, Sweden, Norway?). Counting these well-known personages among one's ancestors is not uncommon — rather, it is the rule for anyone who has two English ancestors of the nineteenth century or before. Most genealogists agree that we of English descent are the blood relatives, and probably the direct descendants, of everyone who lived in England at the time of William the Conqueror.

The seven rulers of England mentioned above begin with William the Conqueror and continue with Henry I, Matilda or Maud, and the first four Plantagenet kings — Henry II, John Lackland, Henry III and Edward I — with Eleanor of Aquitaine as an interim ruler after the death of Richard Coeur de Lion.

The accompanying chart lists Priscilla's English ancestors.



PRISCILLA MULLINS

Family line to William the Conqueror

1. William the Conqueror 1027 - 1087
married Matilda, daughter of Earl of Flanders, 1053
2. Henry I (King of England) 1068 - 1135
youngest son of William I; reigned 1100 - 1135; married Edith-Matilda, daughter of Malcolm III (King of the Scots)
3. Matilda (a/k/a Maud) 1102 - 1167
daughter of Henry I and widow of Henry V, Emperor of Germany; married Geoffrey of Anjou (the first Plantagenet) 1129
4. Henry II (King of England) 1133 - 1189
son of Matilda and Geoffrey; married Eleanor of Aquitaine, the divorced wife of French King Louis VII in 1152
5. John Lackland (King of England) 1167 - 1216
youngest son of Henry II and Eleanor; succeeded Richard the Lion-hearted, his elder brother, to the throne; reigned 1199 - 1216; married Isabella of Angouleme, 1200
6. Henry III (King of England) 1207 - 1272
Eldest son of John and Isabella; reigned 1216 - 1272; married Eleanor of Provence in 1236
7. Edward I (King of England) 1239 - 1307
Eldest son of Henry III and Eleanor; reigned 1272 - 1307; married Eleanor of Castile, half-sister of King Alphonso X, in 1254
8. Princess Joan (also "Joanna") 1272 - 1307
known as "Joanna of Acre"; one of nine daughters of Edward I; married Ralph de Monthermer
9. Sir Thomas Monthermer
Son of Joan and Ralph; first cousin to King Edward III; killed at the naval Battle of Sluys, June 23, 1340
10. Margaret Monthermer
Daughter of Sir Thomas; married Sir John Montague, son of William de Monteacuts, Earl of Salisbury

(Continued on Page 12)



BIRTHPLACE OF Lavinia Warren, who married the famous Gen. Tom Thumb, still stands on Plymouth Street in Warrentown.

Old Warrentown Business Locations

by Lyman Butler

Every once in a while I will pick up the Weston History of Middleboro and open it at random and read awhile about whatever is on the pages but it is not long before I turn to the part of the book which tells about the places where I used to live as a young one. The one that I have just been reading about is the Warrentown section of town. Having spent my early childhood in that section I remember many of the spots mentioned.

As there are many people who have not read the history I would like to tell of a few of the industries which were carried on in the Warrentown section of long ago. As the history starts with the Murdock Street area of the Nemasket River so will I. Here was built a grist mill, a shingle mill and a saw mill, all operated by water power. These were built and maintained by Mr. John Warren, a great grandson of Jabez Warren who the locality was named after. Some of the walls of the old mills are still in existence. The old home of John Warren was still in existence when I was young, later it burned. This was known as the John Weston house and was located on the spot where Henry Dutra lives now. The present house was built by Jack

McNeece who many remember as working for the registry of motor vehicles in later years. According to history where Snow's Bog is now, used to be a reservoir for water power to operate the hammer shop which was owned by Benji. Warren. The shop where the shovels were made was the building which housed Primo's Pastime when I was a youngster. It is now a dwelling house. The flume and sluiceway of the hammer shop are still in use for controlling the water on the Cranberry Bog known as Snow's Bog.

On the knoll of the Snow place was a carriage shop operated by Venus and Otis Snow, father of Henry who us kids used to know as youngsters. When he passed away his son William carried on the bog for some years. The old carriage shop was used as a screen house and storage for the berries. This building has been gone for years and there is nothing to remind you of a once thriving business in this spot.

The James and Sylvanus Bump family used to operate a slaughter house in a building in the rear of their dwelling on Plymouth Street where Mrs. Tom Thumb was born. This business was carried on by Charles H. Shaw and his son Charles L. Shaw at the turn of the 20th Century. This building has been torn down and all that remains is the cellar hole.

The hill that we always knew as Snow's Hill got its name from the Aaron Snow family who owned the house and Wheel Wright Shop at the top of the grade, and nearly opposite this residence was the sales stable of Melzar Tribou. In the same yard was the Shoe Shop of Richard Carter and next to this the Carpenter Shop of Horatio Wilbur. Many will remember this

building when the boys from Warrentown used it for a Club House.

I have given you a rough idea as to what a busy place Warrentown used to be in the old days. There is no doubt but there were other small shoe shops like the one where Carol Washburn lived but the town history does not list every little business, although on the old 1855 map there are many little shoe shops listed here and there all over town.

This may not mean much to a lot of people but anyone who lived in Warrentown fifty or sixty years ago will well remember many of the buildings which housed some of these business ventures.

August, 1965

Ben Chapman's Store . . .

At this time the Model T was very popular as well as some of the so called expensive cars such as Winton Apperson, Packard and others, and traffic was heavy. The diner stayed open for some time but as the summer visitors began to use the new Route 28, business dropped off and Ben closed up and sold the diner.

I went down to the Cape at Hyannis last summer and happened to see Ben. He was nearly ninety years old and although he has lost a leg, he still gets around well and runs a lunch canteen. He is known as the Java man. Ben comes through town occasionally and renews old times with his many friends.

April, 1965

Old Middleboro Merchants

by Lyman Butler

While looking through the old Gen. E. W. Pierce history and directory of Middleboro, 1899 which Mrs. Donald Garnier kindly loaned me, some of the advertisements are really interesting, like the one of a Gideon S. Thomas: Fruit and Confectionery Bazaar, Ice Cream and Oyster Stews served at all hours. Well I like ice cream and I like oyster stew also but the combination is not just what I would pick. He also carried a full stock of cigars and tobacco. Ice Cream at short notice. This store was located on Main Street next to the Nemasket House which at this time was managed by H.E. Penniman. Transients would be boarded at a dollar a day, cheaper if by the week.

The people of today could never have lived back at that era as there were no easy credit terms like we have today. Most stores had to have "Cash on the barrel head" as they say.

At the time there were two newspapers published in Middleboro. The Gazette with J.M. Coombs, Prop. and The Middleboro Semi-weekly News, which was issued on Tuesday and Friday. M.N. Copeland was publisher of this sheet with office on Academy Green which I assume was where Thatchers Print Shop is now. This bi-weekly was \$1.50 per year. In 1889 there was no North or South Main Street. From the corner of North and East Main Street to the Lakeville line was just Main Street.

Then there was C.C. Crooker, Agent for Bridal Veil Flour and Standard Java Coffee. This store was at the corner of Main and Water Street so I presume it was where in my day Peckham's Market stood. Another interesting ad is the one of Thomas G. Ford, Horse Shoer and Carriage Smith. It says "We use Dr. Roberg's Patent Hoof Expander for the care and prevention of contraction, Quarter Cracks, Corns etc." Boy those are all new to me, can't remember of any of our horses having corns, but have heard of a bog spavin and the heaves.

Another one is F.W. Hayden Optical Goods, Jewelry, Watches, also Guns, Fishing supplies etc. Lots of these stores carried a varied assortment of goods since in those days, with a smaller population, they could not specialize on just one thing. Today, an optometrist just sells glasses and a jeweler just

sells jewelry, watches etc.

Another interesting ad is the one of "Matthews and Ramsey's Hair Dressing and Bath Rooms. Special attention given to cutting and shampooing Ladies Hair." So you see even back in 1889 they had a beauty shop right on Center Street or as the advertisement says you could get a bath before going on that date, even if you did not have a bathroom in your house. I take it that this is the same location and the same Pete Ramsey which I knew as a youngster next to the Pierce Building on Center Street.

There are very few of the advertisers that are still doing business today under the same name as at that time. LeBaron Ice Company is one that is still going only selling oil instead of ice. Another J.L. Jenney Coal Co.

Looking back to the time I was very young I can remember a few who are listed in this book. Atwood Box Mfr.; W.F. Dean who had a wood working shop next to Benson Harness Shop; Dr. W.F. Fryer; E.F. Blake; Jenney Coal; LeBaron Ice; Norman McDermick, teamer; C.H. Morse, Poultry; and Dr. H.A. Smith. I will tell more about this interesting book at some future date.

August, 1973



Webster Street, Circa 1900

Old Popcorn Vendor

by Lyman Butler

Some may say that this title does not have anything to do with history but I believe that at the time these persons were doing business, to them it was as important as if they were running a department store or a grocery. I am referring to "Pop" Heath and T. Quigley who both had popcorn carts. I believe Mr. Heath was the first to start out but Mr. Quigley was not far behind. Mr. Heath had a three-wheeled bicycle rig which he pulled like a cart with a rudder wheel in front.

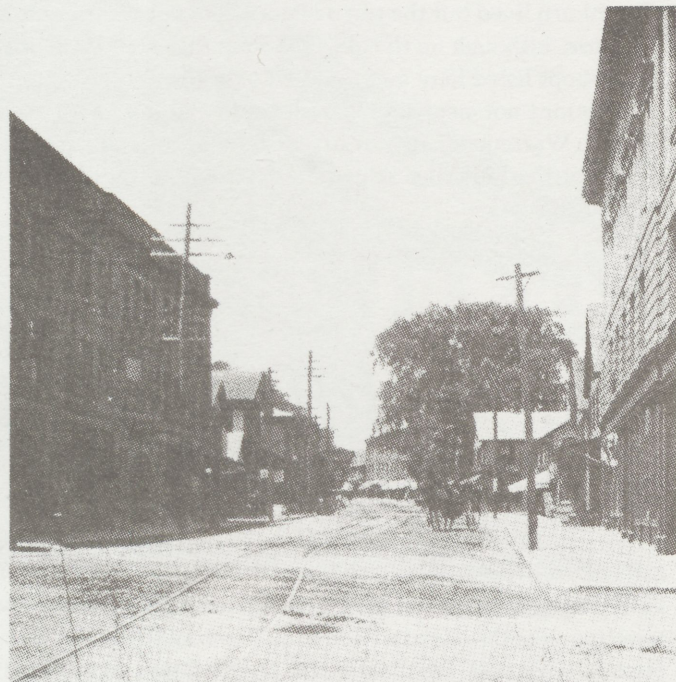
These carts were familiar at the band concerts that were so popular when the Bay State Band was playing at the bandstand on the Town Hall lot. They also took in ball games which were well attended and any parade or other celebration. I can see "Pop" Heath now with the gasoline fire and the big wire mesh popper that must have held six or eight quarts. This was suspended on small chains from the roof and just the right height from the flame. He would just push the handle gently back and forth and soon the corn would begin to pop and fill the big basket when it was done. Then with a deft motion the popper turned upside down into the corner and a big bin. This operation was repeated until a good supply was made. A big old coffee pot of butter melted over the flame and kept warm by holding it over the fire now and again. A generous amount of this was put onto the bag of corn when sold.

Mr. Quigley had a more modern rig which had four wheels (wooden). It took two men to pull this outfit especially if it was going any distance. Generally one of his sons went along to help dispense the corn. I believe Mr. Quigley also had a peanut roaster that you cranked up to make the oven revolve over a gasoline flame.

This was only a part time job for Mr. Quigley whose regular line of work was painting and paper hanging in company with his sons. As for Mr. Heath, I do not recall him doing anything else but peddling popcorn. Today there is always a popcorn cart to be found at fairs and all resorts where there is a crowd. They are similar to the carts of long ago except that most are now mounted on a truck and run by electric motors. Now all you do is put in the corn and a little oil, push a button and wait. Soon the corn starts popping and spills out into the bin. Some still use the same old basket-type popper with propane gas for heat. As for peanut roasters, our two fruit markets run by Tom Panesis and Frank Oneto on opposite sides of Centre Street back in the 1900's each had a steam peanut roaster in front of their stores.

At this writing, the Panesis store is still in operation being run by Tom's son-in-law, Jack Turner, Tom having retired a few years ago. The little steam whistle of those peanut roasters was a pleasant sound and in the winter the plume of steam which rose in the frosty air was a cheery sight. Occasionally one of these old peanut roasters is to be found in a museum.

November, 1973



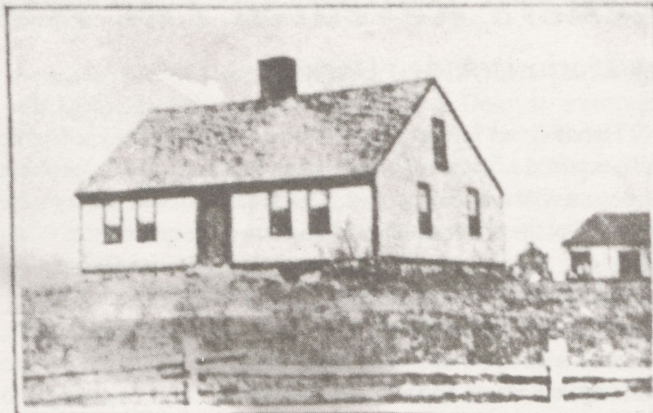
CENTRE STREET, Middleboro, in the days of trolley cars.

Plantagenet Ancestry . . .

11. Robert Montague
Son of Sir John and Margaret
12. John Montague
Son of Robert; married Agnes More
13. William Montague of Sutton/Montague
Son of John
14. William Montague of Somersetshire
Son of William; married a Perenell of Devon
15. Johanna Montague
Daughter of William; married John Molins
16. John Molins Jr.
Son of John and Johanna
17. Henry Molins (Mullyns)
Son of John Jr.; married Joane Bridger in 1571
18. William Mullins 1572 - 1621
Cordwainer; a Pilgrim Father on the "Mayflower"; married Alice . . . in the year ? who also died in 1621
19. Priscilla Mullins 1603 - 1650
Daughter of William and Alice; a passenger on the "Mayflower"; married John Alden in 1623; died in Duxbury, Massachusetts



DOGGETT HOUSE



RANSOME HOUSE

regular clients. Most likely the master builder for this project, Doggett worked on the house from July to September with two apprentices, Moses Samson and Walter Richard. Doggett and the boys worked six days a week on the project, probably for about ten hours each day. Other houses built by Doggett no longer stand; his own house (figure 3, left) which took on the site of the Lakeville Rehabilitation Center, and the cape he built for his neighbor Lemuel Ransome (figure 3, right) are pictured in Weston's History of Middleboro. Doggett also built houses for Middleborough residents Ebenezer Blackman, Abner Bourne, Dr. Joseph Clark, Isaac Cushman, Dr. Thomas Sturtevant, John Weston, and Zachariah Weston. In 1774, he traveled to the southern precinct of Plympton (now Carver) to build a meeting house for representatives of the new congregation there.

Unlike today's economy, very little cash changed hands in eighteenth-century Middleborough. Instead, services such as agricultural labor or goods such as iron bars or bushels of corn were the dominant forms of payment. Doggett not only recorded his own work in his account book; he also used it to keep track of work his clients had done for him or surplus goods that they had given him. Doggett's clients undoubtedly kept similar account books which recorded their own credits and debits; periodically, craftsman and client would "reckon" their accounts with each other. For instance, on January 28, 1773, Doggett noted in his account book: "then rackened and settled all book accounts with Lemuel Ramson (sic) and there was due to me 0.0.10 to ballence all book accounts." Ransom signed his name to the book, attesting that he owed Doggett ten pence.

The most common form of payment among Doggett's clients was agricultural labor, which included hoeing, weeding, hilling, threshing, harvesting, and numerous other task related to farming. Among the crops that Doggett grew on his farm were corn, wheat, rye, and flax. Since harvest time coincided with his busiest months for house building, Doggett often took advantage of his clients' indebtedness at this time of year. During August and September, many of Doggett's neighbors assisted in the harvesting of his crops. Exchange of agricultural labor often involved the work of sons. When Doggett's sons reached the age of eight, their labor became an exchangeable

commodity. For instance, Simeon, Jr., age eight, spent two days on Joshua Reed's farm "riding hors(e) to plow for weeding." The farm work that Doggett's sons and apprentices did at an early age was not exploitation, but necessity. It not only enabled Doggett to manage a large farm while doing carpentry and joinery; it also prepared the boys for their future livelihood as part-time farmers.

While labor was the most common form of exchange recorded in Doggett's account book, iron also appears as an important medium of exchange. While labor exchange was typical for rural locations, the use of iron as a commodity sets Middleborough apart from other eighteenth-century agricultural communities. The Oliver ironworks, which was producing massive quantities of iron by 1756, profoundly affected Middleborough's economy. Peter Oliver's ammunition contracts with the British Crown provided employment for large numbers at nonagricultural trades, involved the town in a larger market economy, and ultimately produced a local unit of exchange.

Although Doggett was not directly involved with iron manufacture, his account book and other sources reveal that the industry played an important role in his life and indirectly affected most Middleborough residents. In 1788, Doggett inherited his father's rights to iron ore in Assawampsett Pond. Since the ore in this and other local ponds served as the primary raw materials for the ironworks, Doggett must have profited from his ownership of the rights. While Doggett's use of his rights to raw iron ore is not documented, his account book details numerous sales of refined bar iron. In most cases, iron was sold by the hundredweight for the standard price of 1.6.8. Local blacksmiths such as Elias Miller and Jacob Tilson regularly purchased Doggett's bar iron. Besides selling iron, Doggett often received it as payment for joinery or carpentry. Isaac Cushman gave him 204 pounds of blume iron in 1772 as partial payment for the house Doggett and his apprentices built in 1769. Bartlett Murdock, who operated the Charlotte Furnace in Plympton, supplied two tons of iron hollow ware worth 21.68 as part of the payment towards Doggett's work on the South Precinct Meeting House in 1774. This vast amount of hollow ware, a specialty of the Charlotte Furnace, probably

(Continued on Page 15)

How My Great-Grandfather's Civil War Letters Revealed The Human Experience

by Marjorie Alden Doran

Handwritten letters are the reflection of the way a person feels, acts and expresses oneself. They can reveal so much about the person who wrote them and about the time in which they were written, that they become more than mere correspondence. Of all the things that human beings write in their lives, the most personal must be the letters they send to each other.

My Great-grandfather's Civil War letters, in brown ink, yellowed with age and on any kind of paper he could manage to find, beg or borrow, made him and his time come more alive to me.

The first two letters were written aboard the ship "George Peabody" in January, 1863. The writing is more slanted and different from that of the letters written after his arrival on land in Louisiana.

My Great-grandfather Andrew Alden was in the 4th Massachusetts regiment, Company C; a resident of Middleboro, 24 years of age and a bootmaker. He volunteered for nine months' service starting September 19, 1862. His training was done at Camp Joe Hooker, Lakeville. His regiment, with many Middleboro men included, started for the front, via Fall River, December 30, 1862. On the way to the battle zone the "George Peabody" lay at anchor off Fortress Monroe, Virginia, whence two of the letters were mailed back to Andrew's wife, Abigail Whitman (Thompson) Alden, in Titicut.

During the Civil War the Federal forces never lost control of this important fort or the waters in the immediate vicinity; it handled much of the mail brought ashore and, in addition, "flag-of-truce" prisoner mails exchanged between the Confederate and Union forces. Andrew could see the village of Hampton, VA, from the ship as they lay anchor a quarter of a mile from the fort, "The cannon looking us in the face". He wrote of how wonderful the bread was--bread baked at the fort--and "a tug comes alongside to sell apples, three for 5 cents".

From the "Middleboro Gazette" of February 21, 1863, we learn that the "George Peabody" left Fortress Monroe on January 15th:

"For thirty-six hours they experienced a heavy gale, which kept nearly all confined below. Contrary winds prevented their making their passage by the Hole in the Wall, and for three days they were sailing among the dangerous reefs and rocks of the Florida Keys. On the 26th, the Island of Cuba could be seen." They remained off Pilot Town through the 7th, then sailed up to New Orleans and made camp at Carrollton, thirteen miles by water from New Orleans.

Andrew's letter from Carrollton mentions the celebrated 8-mile shell road that runs to New Orleans..."hard and level as a floor -- perfectly straight". The camp was located on a flat, old sugar plantation. They were under marching orders to start at two hours' notice from Baton Rouge to take part in the capture of skirmishes. Andrew writes: "I often see slaves and talk with them about their masters; they have run away and stay among the

soldiers. They offer to wash and iron our clothes." On May 16th he wrote: "2000 negroes came into camp. They set some to work and enlisted others." He thought the rebels were losing ground fast.

Andrew writes that the food was never very plentiful, mostly toast and milk (no butter) for dinner, rice for breakfast and once in a while, eggs. He feels the effects of "jauntice". When on the march they have to rest one day to cook provisions.

The first battle for Port Hudson was fought on May 27th, 1863, and resulted disastrously for the Union. Orders came from General Banks to storm the earthworks, about seven miles in extent. "Forward" was the order and as they emerged from the woods -- such a roar from cannon and mortar, musket and rifle, the whine of cannonball, the shriek of the shell, the sudden "ping" of the rifle ball -- all combined.

Andrew writes that he was "sick on return home and was put on board a steamer with wounded, both Rebels and Union. 250 men wounded on all parts of the body--a hard sight. Our Reg't. was sent back to guard duty. The rest of the Army have followed up the rebels. All I can say is to thank God that He spared my life". This letter was written at Fort Buchanan, near Brashear. Andrew writes again from camp near Brashear: "Mosquitos do a good deal towards keeping us wide awake at nights." His "hips are blue and the skin peels off them --I have layn (sic) on boards so much." He misses good clear water to drink and a good bed to lie on at night.

The skirmishes continued, to quote: "They captured a great many prisoners, drove them just where we wanted to. They left everything behind and burned their boats and set fire to bridges. Wish I could load a wheelbarrow for you with sugar and a hogshead of molasses."

On June 14th another fierce battle took place for Port Hudson. The company lost many men, while the number left in charge of supplies at Brashear City were taken prisoner and sent "up the Red River" to Texas. Among the prisoners was Andrew Alden. The prisoners taken at Brashear City, Louisiana, were paroled (exchanged) on June 23rd; from a story in the "Middleboro Gazette" of June 28, 1863, we find that they underwent a severe journey back to Union lines, after having their blankets stolen from them by the rebels. The regiment suffered severely, 118 of it's number dying from disease alone.

Meanwhile, back in Middleboro the "Gazette" was making Welcoming Home arrangements for "the boys". The date of the mustering out was August 28, 1863 at Camp Joe Hooker in Lakeville.

September, 1992

Middleborough's Tory Story . . .

included items such as pots, kettles, cauldrons and andirons.

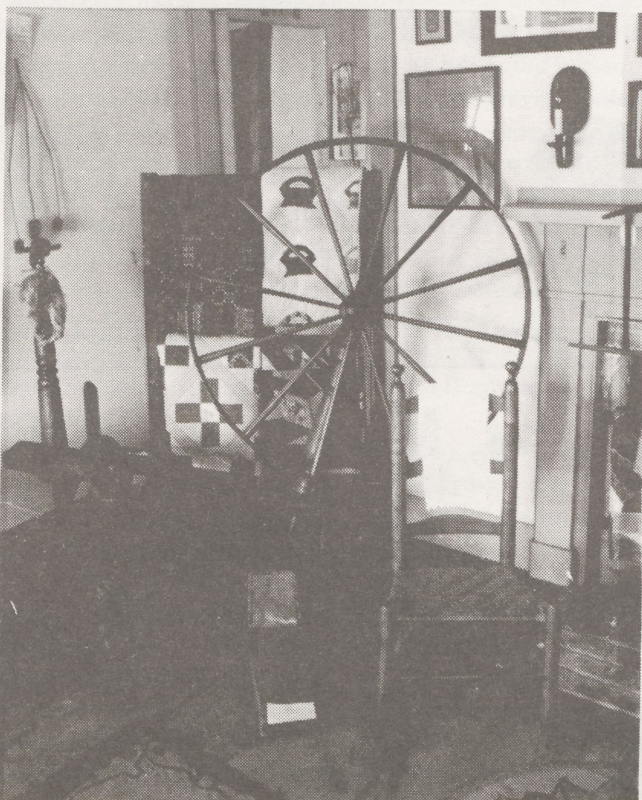
While analysis of the transactions in Doggett's account book reveals the particular characteristics of Middleborough's economy, a survey of his roster of clients exposes the structure of the community which Doggett served. In pre-industrial agricultural communities such as Middleborough, one would expect to find an artisan's clientele composed largely of people who shared similar backgrounds and beliefs and who were often members of the artisan's extended family as well. With Doggett's clients, this was not the case. As an Anglican and a Tory, Doggett stood apart from the vast majority of the Middleborough population. The typical Middleborough resident at the time of the Revolution attended the Congregational Church and supported the cause of the patriots. Doggett's clientele does not reflect his beliefs at all, for he served many members of the First Congregational Church, including its minister and several deacons. Also among his clients were a number of prominent Revolutionary soldiers, including Lieutenants Achippus Cole and Elias Miller, Major John Nelson, Captains Nathaniel Smith, Gideon Southworth, and Robert Sproat, and Colonel Ebezener Sproat. Several of Doggett's clients were even involved in his persecutions. Although there

were only about fifteen suspected Tories in the town, Doggett did business with at least half of them. Doggett maintained strong business and personal ties with Tories Judge Peter Oliver and his sons Daniel and Peter, as well as neighbors Lemuel Ransome and Silas Wood. Other Tories or suspected Tories among his clients were Josiah Vaughan, Thomas Paddock, Zebulon Leonard, Peter Vaughan and William Canady.

Simeon Doggett's experience during the Revolution, which is described in detail in surviving memoirs and correspondence, provides a fascinating example of how a seemingly distant international event could have a tumultuous effect on the life of a small-town yeoman. Doggett's Loyalist beliefs most likely stemmed from his religion; as an Anglican, Doggett firmly believed in the supremacy and order of the British monarchy. Doggett's conflict with his patriotic townsmen began soon after the battle at Lexington in April, 1775. Because he refused to "take up arms" against the British, Doggett was confined to his farm for over a year, from July 1775 to December 1776. Subsequently, he was forced to pay a ten pound fine for refusing to service in the army. In June 1777, Doggett stood trial for his beliefs and, being found guilty, was delivered to Boston for banishment. After eight weeks on board a prison ship, Dog-

(Continued on Page 16)

Middleborough Historical Museum



Featuring Tom Thumb & his lady memorabilia and collection. Museum includes seven buildings and many different collections.

ADMISSION:

\$2.00 for adults \$1.00 for students

Open Wednesday - Sunday, July - September.
Open by appointment only during the winter.
Call Director/Curator Marsha Manchester, 947-7120

JACKSON STREET
MIDDLEBORO, MASSACHUSETTS
off Route 105, behind Police Station

gett was allowed to return home, but an angry mob drove him out of Middleborough. Doggett wandered for more than a year until the fury of townsmen had subsided, and finally returned home in early 1779. In a letter written shortly after the war, presumably to the exiled Judge Peter Oliver in England, Doggett summarizes the treatment he received and the current state of his business:

I have passed through many trying scenes of trouble & difficulty on account of my Loyalty to the...Government of Great Britain; such as being dragged before Committees & the American army then confined to my own farm, insulted, execrated & my life threatened, then impressed into the American army or obliged to pay a heavy fine, then confined a close prisoner on board their ships, then sent home by the then authority, then expelled again from any habitation & drove out of town, in the most ignominious manner, with reproaches, ringing of bells, by my own townsmen to seek my living among these sons of violence...by which means I am rendered poor, & my little interest is much lessened & diminished...My situation in Middleborough is rendered very unhappy & uneasy to me, and I am tempted to seek out an habitation in some place & without insult.

The fact that Doggett did not ultimately leave Middleborough but continued to live there and carry on his business indicates that he was eventually accepted back into the community. According to Weston's History of Middleboro, Doggett and his neighbor Lemuel Ransome "regained the esteem and confidence of their fellow citizens" after the Revolution ended. Doggett not only salvaged his reputation after the blow of the War, but even continued to improve his social standing late in his life. His family's advancing position within society reflects the broad social changes which were transforming post-Revolutionary Middleborough.

Doggett's recovery and advancement of his social status is evident in his own activities, but is perhaps best summarized by the achievement of his offspring within his own lifetime. Doggett's three sons broke with convention by marrying women from towns other than Middleborough. Thomas, the eldest, carried on his father's trade and remained in Middleborough. Elkanah became a prominent merchant, and died at the age of twenty-seven having acquired the title of "gentleman" and amassed an estate worth over one thousand pounds. Doggett's son Simeon graduated from Providence College (Brown University), served as a tutor there, and became a minister as well as the first preceptor of the Bristol Academy in Taunton. Abigail Doggett, the youngest child, married Thomas Weston, who owned the former Oliver ironworks and later became a judge. In 1798, Abigail and Thomas Weston moved into the Dr. Peter Oliver House, which Doggett had built almost thirty years earlier. With the possible exception of his eldest son Thomas, Doggett's children quickly attained a high level of success, whether it be through business acumen, a good education, or an advantageous marriage.

The amazing level of self-consciousness with which Doggett and his offspring pursued the improvement of their social sta-

tion is clearly evident in surviving correspondence between Simeon, Jr. and his older brother Thomas. In a series of letters written in 1793 while he was a tutor at Providence College, Simeon, Jr., then twenty-eight years old, expressed concern to his thirty-two-year-old brother about Thomas' apparent disinterest in improving himself and becoming part of the "society" in Middleborough.

I should advise you, Brother, to contemplate a member of the Society in Middleborough. When you have corrected those bad habits of which I have taken the liberty to remind you, I should suppose you might, with propriety, contemplate being a member. Finding yourself connected with them, you would soon get a taste for reading & improvement...The present is an age of improvement & refinement. By the time you are fifty years old, I think you will find, that a man can't be very respectable, without considerable more improvement, than what now gives respectability. This, I think, is a consideration which ought to have great weight... You would be very unhappy, at fifty, to be sunk in standing to what David Thomas & the Millars & that class of man are now. What has sunk them & raised others above them? It is improvement—improvement in manners & in mind. Twenty or thirty years hence, your family must take their standing from yourself, not from Father, or any of your friends; be very careful then, that you do not oblige them to step down hill, by your neglect.


PRESCRIPTION PHARMACY
374 CENTRE STREET
MIDDLEBORO, MA 02346
947-1909



Ronald H. Craig, R.Ph.



Marcel R. Chretien, R.Ph.

Decas, Murray & Decas

Attorneys-at-law

COL. PETER H. PEIRCE HOUSE
(Next to Middleboro Public Library)

132 N. Main St.
Middleboro, MA

947-4433

George C. Decas, Esq.
Daniel F. Murray, Esq.
William C. Decas, Esq.



Middleborough's Tory Story . . .

Although Simeon Jr.'s letters take on the preachy tone of his profession and seem at times unbearably arrogant, they plainly describe the Doggett family's upward mobility and self-consciousness about their position in society. In a previous letter, Simeon, Jr., refers to "the pleasure of looking up to a Father, who, considering the amazing embarrassments (through) which he has laboured, is very...respectable man."

Simeon's adulation of his father and some other "respectable" men and his insulting descriptions of other Middleborough families reveal a tension within the society between those on the rise and those "sinking" in status. Doggett's relationships with his clients and neighbors were undoubtedly colored by this tension, which separated not just the rich from the poor, but the "refined" from the common.

Simeon Doggett's account book, memoir, and his family's correspondence produce a portrait of a hard-working, stubborn, and resilient individual who belonged to a community in the midst of change. These sources offer a revisionist view of the rural craftsman, of yeoman Tories, and of eighteenth-century Middleborough in general. The account book dispels the myth of the rural farmer/artisan as an isolated and complacent individual who turned out unsophisticated products for a homogeneous community. Doggett's persecution as a Tory, brought about by his own unyielding political beliefs, provides proof that not all Loyalists were wealthy aristocrats with a personal stake in British rule, such as the Oliver family. Finally,

Doggett's account book suggests that Middleborough was not a rural backwater dominated by subsistence farming, but a vibrant town with an iron-driven economy and a population of individuals looking away from the past and towards the future, eager to better themselves through education and social refinement.

(Margaret Hofer just completed her Master Thesis, *The Tory Joiner of Middleborough, Massachusetts: Simeon Doggett and His Community, 1762-1792*. She earned her degree from the Winterthur Program in Early American Culture, a program sponsored by the University of Delaware and the Henry Francis du Pont Winterthur Museum.)

Figure 1. Chippendale side chair, cherry, made by Simeon Doggett around 1798.

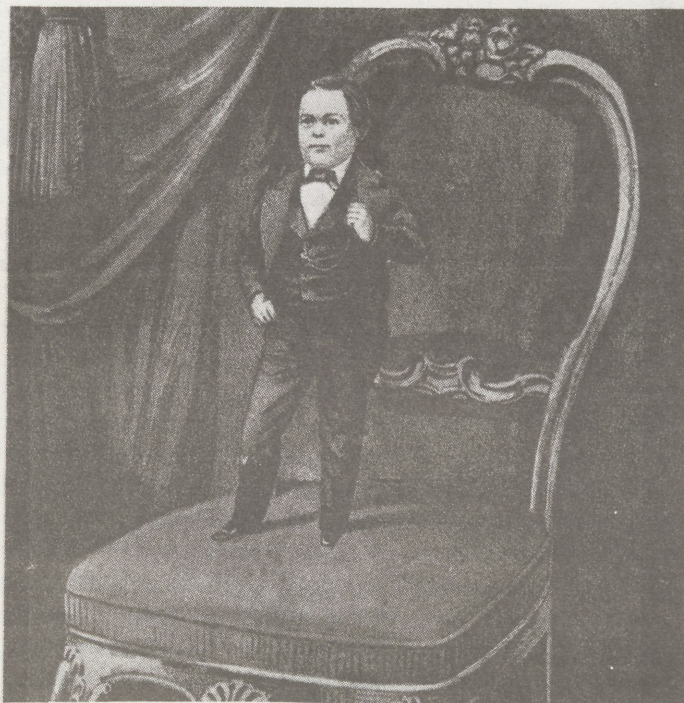
Figure 2. Silas Wood House, 1771.

Figure 3. Simeon Doggett House and Lemeul Ransome House. From Thomas Weston, *History of Middleboro*.

1. Except where noted, the sources used for this article are the Simeon Doggett Account Book, at the Connecticut Historical Society, and various documents from the Simeon Doggett Papers, at the New England Historic Genealogical Society.



AN ELEPHANT model guards the entrance to the Hertzberg Circus Collection in San Antonio, Texas, which features a collection of Tom Thumb memorabilia.



A. T. Maddigan LAW OFFICE

P.O. Box 72
Thatcher's Row
Middleboro, MA 02346

947-0645

Thomas A. Maddigan

- Estate Planning • Wills
- Probate • General Practice of Law

**Country
TRAVEL** *Inc.*



"Our personalized services are free"

50 Center Street • Middleboro, MA 02346
508-947-5165

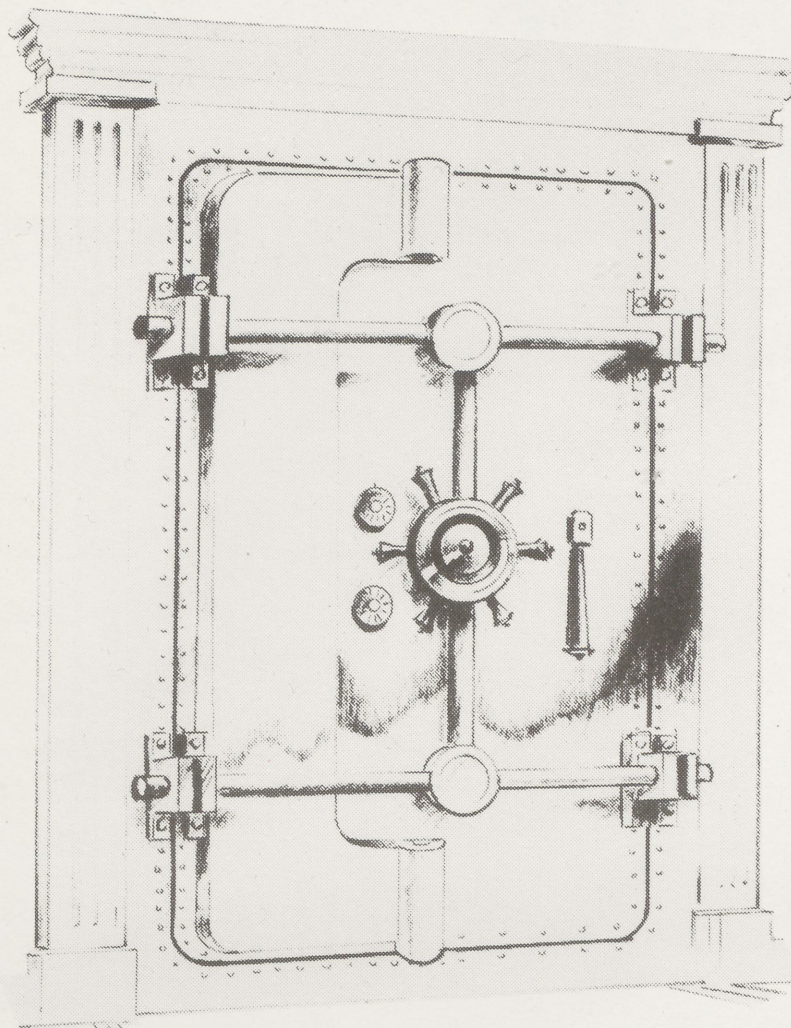
L. H. Chace & Sons Chevrolet, Inc. *Established 1926*

People who appreciate
value and honesty
do business at
Chace Chevrolet!



Route 105 at Junction I-495, Middleboro
947-2600
TOLL FREE 800-649-9202

At Plymouth Savings Bank, safety and security go far beyond the obvious.



Choosing a bank to put your money in these days is no longer the simple job it used to be.

Today, you have to look beyond massive vaults and security guards.

At Plymouth Savings Bank, we've got 150 years of safe and secure growth, plus generations of satisfied customers who have put their faith and their money with us.

Of course, we're insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and the Deposit Insurance Fund of Massachusetts so your deposits are insured 100%. Without limit. Without exception.

Of course we offer you the service and quality you've come to expect.

But most importantly, our dedication to the concept of treating your money as if it were our own should put your mind at ease and make the responsibility of choosing a bank just that much easier.

We look forward to serving you.

**Plymouth
Savings
Bank®**



Member FDIC/DIFM.



WAREHAM
(508) 295-3800
MASHPEE
(508) 477-7984

COTUIT
(508) 428-1300
MATTAPOISETT
(508) 758-4936

DUXBURY
(617) 934-0101
MIDDLEBOROUGH
(508) 946-3065
SANDWICH
(508) 888-4444

FALMOUTH
(508) 548-3000
MIDDLEBOROUGH CENTER
(508) 947-1300
TEATICKET
(508) 540-5002

LAKEVILLE
(508) 947-6601
NO. PLYMOUTH
(508) 747-1600

MARION
(508) 748-2919
PLYMOUTH
(508) 746-3300

PLYMOUTH MORTGAGE COMPANY 1-800-333-8000

Maybe Mayflower can help.



Mayflower
Co-operative
Bank

Member FDIC/SIF

MIDDLEBOROUGH HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, INC.
P.O. Box 304
Middleboro, Massachusetts
02346

NONPROFIT ORG.
BULK RATE
U. S. POSTAGE
PAID
MIDDLEBORO, MASS.
PERMIT NO. 97

George C. Decas
P.O. Box 201
Middleboro, MA 02346